



April 30, 2009

The Honorable Peter Hoekstra
U.S. House of the Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hoekstra,

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of H.R. 5176, which would amend the National Labor Relations Act to prohibit the classification of self employed individuals as employees under state collective bargaining laws.

Across the country, big labor unions like the United Auto Workers (UAW) and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) are quietly forming unions that force state agencies to collect millions of dollars in union dues from home-based daycare providers. These unions provide no benefits or services to their members; these daycare owners did not vote for the union and the union does not bargain on their behalf. Many of these small business owners do not even know they are a dues paying member of a union. This is occurring in at least fifteen states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin.

The NFIB Small Business Legal Center, the nonprofit, public-interest, legal arm of NFIB, submitted an amicus brief in the Michigan case, *Loar v. Michigan Department of Human Services*. Our involvement in the Michigan suit underscores our members concern for the unprecedented and unlawful diversion of money by a state agency from the revenues of self employed daycare providers to labor unions that share few common interests with the providers. NFIB will continue involvement in as many states as possible to prevent the spread of this incredulous misuse of taxpayer dollars.

As the voice of small business – our nation's job creators, NFIB finds it unconscionable that state agencies are aiding and abetting the diversion of taxpayer dollars into the pockets of labor unions, especially at a time when families are struggling just to keep their jobs.

Thank you for introducing H.R. 5176. We look forward to working with you on this issue as the 111th Congress continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Eckerly". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy